Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1-20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A brake shoe assembly comprising:

a brake shoe having an outer radial surface and a plurality of holes;

a brake plate secured to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe, the brake plate having a backing plate that supports a brake lining;

~~at least one~~ a slot formed on the backing plate and ~~at least one~~ a key provided on the brake shoe, the slot and key being detached from each other when the backing plate is disposed proximate the brake shoe and cooperating to resist ~~for resisting radial~~ movement of the brake plate relative to the outer radial surface ~~of the brake shoe~~; and

a plurality of fasteners for securing the brake plate to the brake shoe;

~~at least one~~ wherein the plurality of fasteners includes a preassembled fastener ~~being~~ preassembled to ~~the to the brake plate~~ and extending away from the brake plate toward the brake shoe, ~~the brake shoe having holes for receiving the fasteners,~~ the preassembled ~~fasteners~~ fastener being inserted into a corresponding member of the plurality ~~ones~~ of ~~the~~ holes to facilitate alignment of the key within the slot, and wherein the balance of the plurality of fasteners are inserted into the brake plate and the brake shoe after the preassembled ~~fasteners align~~ fastener aligns the key with the slot.

22. (currently amended) The brake shoe assembly of claim 21 wherein the plurality of fasteners are rivets.

23. (currently amended) The brake shoe assembly of claim 21 wherein the preassembled ~~fasteners are~~ fastener is longer than the ~~brake shoe~~ key to facilitate aligning the key relative to the slot prior to the slot receiving the key.

24. (currently amended) The brake shoe assembly of claim 21 wherein the preassembled ~~fasteners are~~ fastener is secured to the brake shoe by a flaring tool.

25. (currently amended) The brake shoe assembly of claim 21 further comprising a friction material brake lining molded over and covering the preassembled ~~fasteners~~ fastener.

26. (currently amended) A brake shoe assembly comprising:

a brake shoe having an outer radial surface;

a brake plate secured to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe, the brake plate having a backing plate that supports a brake lining;

at least one slot formed on the ~~brake shoe~~ backing plate and at least one key provided on the ~~backing plate~~ brake shoe for resisting radial movement of the brake plate relative to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe; and

a plurality of fasteners for securing the brake plate to the brake shoe; and

a frictional brake lining molded on the brake plate, the brake lining having cut out portions exposing four corners of the brake plate, wherein each exposed corner of the brake plate has a hole for receiving one of the fasteners for fastening the brake plate to the brake shoe.

27. (previously presented) The brake shoe assembly of claim 26 wherein the slot is axially elongated to receive a correspondingly elongated key.

28. (previously presented) The brake shoe assembly of claim 27 wherein the at least one slot formed on the brake shoe includes a pair of axially elongated slots for receiving the at least one key on the backing plate that includes a corresponding pair of axially elongated keys formed on the backing plate.

29. (previously presented) The brake shoe assembly of claim 26 wherein the key is integrally formed as part of the backing plate.

30. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a brake assembly, the method comprising:

providing a brake plate having a plurality of fastener apertures and an alignment slot, wherein ~~four of~~ the plurality of fastener apertures ~~are~~ includes corner fastener apertures provided at four corners of the brake plate and two of the fastener apertures are intermediate fastener apertures provided on opposite sides of the brake plate;

inserting a set of preassembled fasteners into the two intermediate fastener apertures of the brake plate;

molding a friction material brake lining over the set of preassembled fasteners, the friction material brake lining covering the set of preassembled fasteners;

providing a brake shoe having a plurality of holes corresponding to the location of the plurality of fastener apertures of the brake plate, the brake shoe further including a key protruding from an outer radial surface;

mating the ~~brake plate~~ alignment slot with the ~~brake shoe~~ key by aligning the preassembled fasteners with corresponding holes in the brake shoe prior to the ~~brake plate~~ alignment slot receiving the ~~brake shoe~~ key;

inserting a fastener in each of the ~~four~~ corner fastener apertures ~~at the corners of the brake plates~~, the fasteners extending through corresponding holes in the brake shoe and corner fastener apertures in the brake plate; and

securing the brake plate by fastening the fasteners and the preassembled fasteners to the brake shoe with the ~~brake plate~~ slot receiving the ~~brake shoe~~ alignment key to resist radial movement of the brake plate relative to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the molding step comprises molding the friction material brake lining on the brake plate while preventing application of the brake lining over portions of the four corners of the brake plate, wherein each corner of the brake plate includes one of the ~~four~~ corner fastener apertures.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein providing the brake plate comprises forming the ~~brake~~ slot as an axially elongated aperture and forming the

~~brake shoe~~ alignment key as an axially elongated rib to fit within the axially elongated ~~brake plate~~ aperture.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 30 further comprising forming a pair of axially elongated slots in the brake plate and forming a corresponding pair of axially elongated keys ~~in~~ on the brake shoe.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein providing the brake shoe further comprises forming the ~~brake shoe~~ alignment key as an integrally formed portion of the brake shoe.

35. (currently amended) A vehicle drum brake shoe assembly comprising:

a ~~cylindrical~~ brake shoe having an outer radial surface;

a brake plate secured to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe, the brake plate having four corners;

a preassembled fastener secured to and extending away from the brake plate toward the brake shoe;

a frictional brake lining molded over and covering the preassembled ~~fasteners~~ fastener to secure the preassembled ~~fasteners~~ fastener to the brake plate, ~~wherein the brake plate having four corners and~~ wherein the brake lining does not cover the four corners of the brake plate, and wherein each corner of the brake plate ~~having~~ has a hole for receiving one of the fasteners for fastening the brake plate to the brake shoe;

~~at least one~~ a key disposed proximate the brake shoe; and

~~at least one~~ a slot disposed proximate the brake plate for receiving the ~~at least one~~ key for resisting radial movement of the brake plate relative to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe; and

~~at least one preassembled fastener secured to and extending away from the brake plate toward the brake shoe, the brake shoe having at least one~~ a hole disposed in the brake shoe for receiving the preassembled fastener ~~fasteners~~, the preassembled ~~fasteners~~ fastener being inserted into the ~~brake shoe holes~~ hole prior to mating the slot with the key and wherein the key is detached from the slot to facilitate installation and replacement of the brake plate ~~to facilitate alignment of the brake shoe key with the brake plate slot~~.

36. (currently amended) The brake shoe assembly of claim 35 wherein the ~~brake plate~~ slot is axially elongated to receive a correspondingly elongated ~~brake shoe~~ key.

37. (currently amended) The brake shoe assembly of claim 35 wherein the ~~brake plate~~ slot is elongated and extends circumferentially to receive a correspondingly ~~elongated circumferentially~~ elongated ~~brake shoe~~ key.